

Message Text

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43

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 USIA-06 OES-03 L-03 SS-15 PRS-01

/043 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:KNBROWN:TL

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

EUR/EE:NGANDREWS

CU:YRICHMOND

USIA:JSADLIK

OES:WDECLERQC

C:WSHINN

L:BUSHONG

S/S:MR. ORTIZ

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P 121759Z PEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034738

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,SCUL, CZ

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES AGREEMENT

REF: PRAGUE 286

1. THE DEPARTMENT AND USIA WOULD PREFER TO TAKE UP ZANTOV-SKY'S OFFER OF "DELIBERATIONS" OR DISCUSSIONS RATHER THAN BEGIN FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS TIME. INFORMAL SESSIONS WOULD SEEM TO PROVIDE US WITH SOMEWHAT GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN OUR ABILITY TO RESPOND TO CZECH PROPOSALS. INFORMAL - TALKS WOULD ALSO PERMIT THE EMBASSY TO DEAL WITH WORKING-LEVE MFA AND OTHER OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS FACILITATE CZECHOSLOVAK MFA TASK OF COORDINATION WITH VARIOUS MINISTRIES.

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2. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT YOU SHOULD RESPOND TO ZANTOV-SKY ALONG THESE LINES: WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE HAS INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM IN OUR RELATIONS. THE US IS PREPARED TO BEGIN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ON THE EXCHANGES AGREEMENT IN PRAGUE ON FEBRUARY 25. WE BELIEVE THAT FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BEGIN AT A TIME WHEN BOTH SIDES AGREE THAT THE PRELIMINARY TALKS HAVE CLEARED THE WAY.

EXPECT THAT OUR AMBASSADOR WOULD HEAD THE US SIDE IN SUCH NEGOTIATIONS. INGERSOLL

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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